THE EGLINTON LUNATIC ASYLUM, CORK.

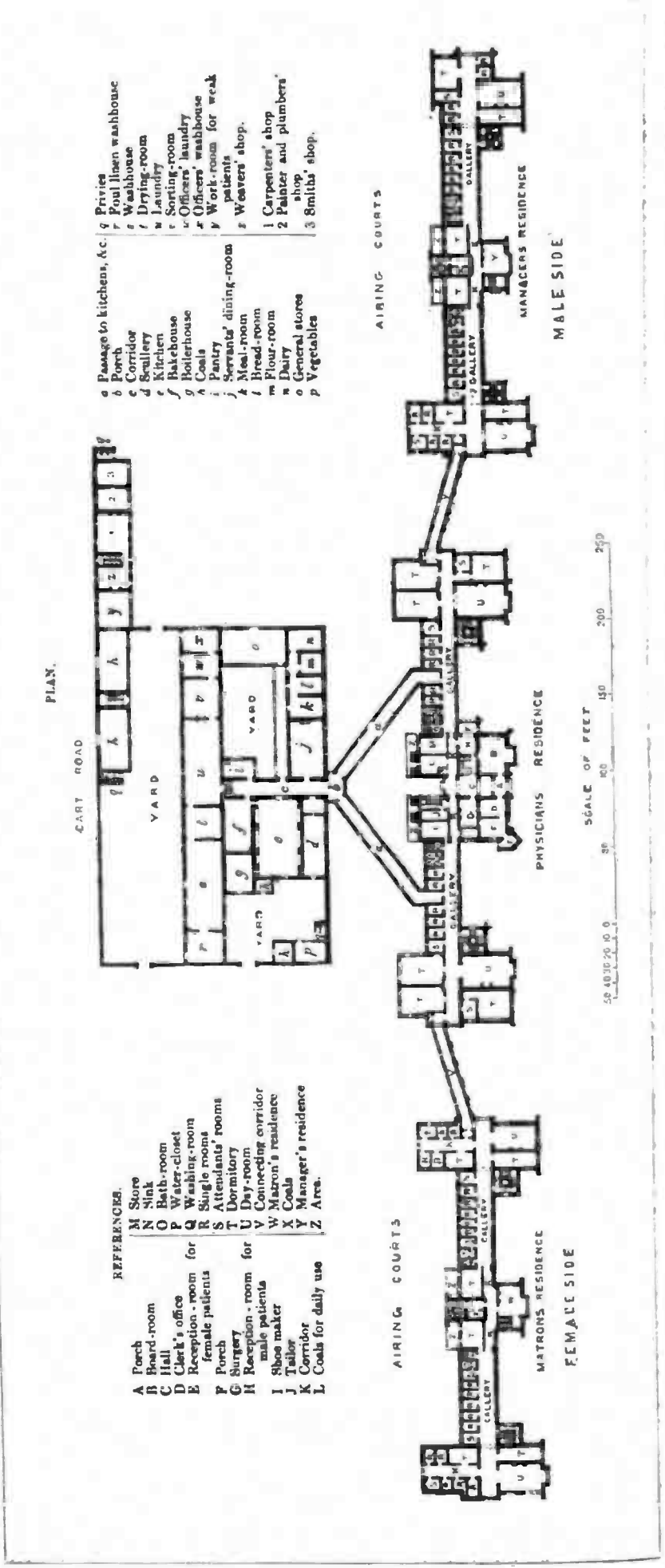
THIS building is erected from the designs of Mr. W. Atkins, of Cork, under the supervision of the Irish Board of Public Works,—to accommodate 500 patients. The cost will be nearly 70,000*l*.

The building is divided into four distinct blocks connected on the ground-floor by low corridors. Three of the blocks, ranged along a steep brow, compose the front, nearly 1,000 feet in length, and contain the apartments of the patients on three floors, with the residence of the medical superintendent in the centre. The fourth block, comprising the kitchen and offices, all on the ground floor, is placed in the rear of the centre. The walls are faced outside with a reddish sandstone rubble, procured near the site, with dressings of gray limestone, from quarries in the hills on the opposite side of the river Lee, which have also supplied a marble of considerable beauty for some of the internal fittings. The roofs are covered with slate, the spires with galvanized zinc.

The arrangement of the patients on three floors, as here adopted, differs from that preferred by the English authorities. By them it is considered most desirable to restrict the patients to two floors, as giving greater facility for escape or rescue in case of fire, and diminishing the mass subject to conflagration at any one point. The detachment into masses of the Cork asylum, is intended in some degree to provide for this emergency, and the additional floor gives a saving of one-third in the roofing. The kitchen and domestic offices are conveniently arranged and well fitted. The heat for all purposes is by steam, generated in a furnace-house, and conveyed by pipes to the kitchen, laundry, and drying-house, the boilers being jacketed with felt for its retention. The water supply is good, from a natural source on the grounds of the Institution, considerably above the highest point of the buildings. An adjacent mansion is being converted into an infirmary; and a church for the use of the establishment has been erected within the grounds.

The design, as shown in the engraving, is in many respects of unusual character, some would say fantastic, and, as was remarked in our pages, when noticing the building on a previous occasion, a mixed style has been adopted for the three lofty turrets, and, though confined to them, from their prominent position the marked style of the main building is much interfered with. The use, too, of these features is not sufficiently obvious. Smoke flues they are, though where chimney stacks seem likewise to abound, such a use would hardly be expected. Their application to a partial system of ventilation would seem to have been an afterthought, and the success of it problematical. Artificial ventilation is not stipulated for by the Irish authorities.

The site of the building is a commanding one, on the steep ascent north of the river Lee. Whatever its defects, it is unquestionably a fine building, its varied outline assorting well with the natural features of the scene, and as a contribution to the architecture of Cork, where nature has done so much, and art, until recently, so little, should be duly valued.



METROPOLITAN CONNECTION OF RAILWAYS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—The comprehensive plan published by Mr. John Martin, the artist, in 1846, is again being brought under consideration. Since its first suggestion, indeed, a considerable portion of the ring of railway connection round the metropolis which the plan of Mr. Martin comprises has been realised by the North-Western Company. Mr. Martin's scheme for the improvement of the Thames, with double trunk line of railway, floating piers, &c. forms a connected portion of the same general scheme, but is brought forward separately by Mr. Martin. It is to be hoped that if either the whole or any further portion of this gentleman's plan be carried out, he will at least get the credit of it. The plan for surrounding Paris with a railway ring would appear to have been based on the same idea.

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